SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 23

NOT FOR THE SHY GUY

BRIGHT COLOURS, LOUD PRINTS AND BOLD METALLICS DOMINATE TRENDS FOR MEN NEXT SPRING PAGE 24

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Report warns of what spill would do to Stanley Park

Wildlife. Hundreds of bird species are dependant on area

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Stanley Park is a bird lover's paradise, but an oil-tanker spill in the Burrard Inlet could put at least 236 species of bird at risk, warns a Wilderness Committee report released Wednesday.

The 12-page report, authored by Greenpeace International co-founder Rex Weyler, looks at the potential impacts of an oil spill on Stanley Park.

It notes that the numerous bird species rely on the beloved park for food, breeding habitat or migration stopovers. The surrounding shorelines and waters, which species like raccoons, marine algae, shellfish and river otters call home and up to 17,000 individual birds use every year, could also be devastated.

"We think it's important that people look at the worst-case scenarios and think, 'What are we getting ourselves into?' before we head down that path," said Ben West with the Wilderness Committee.

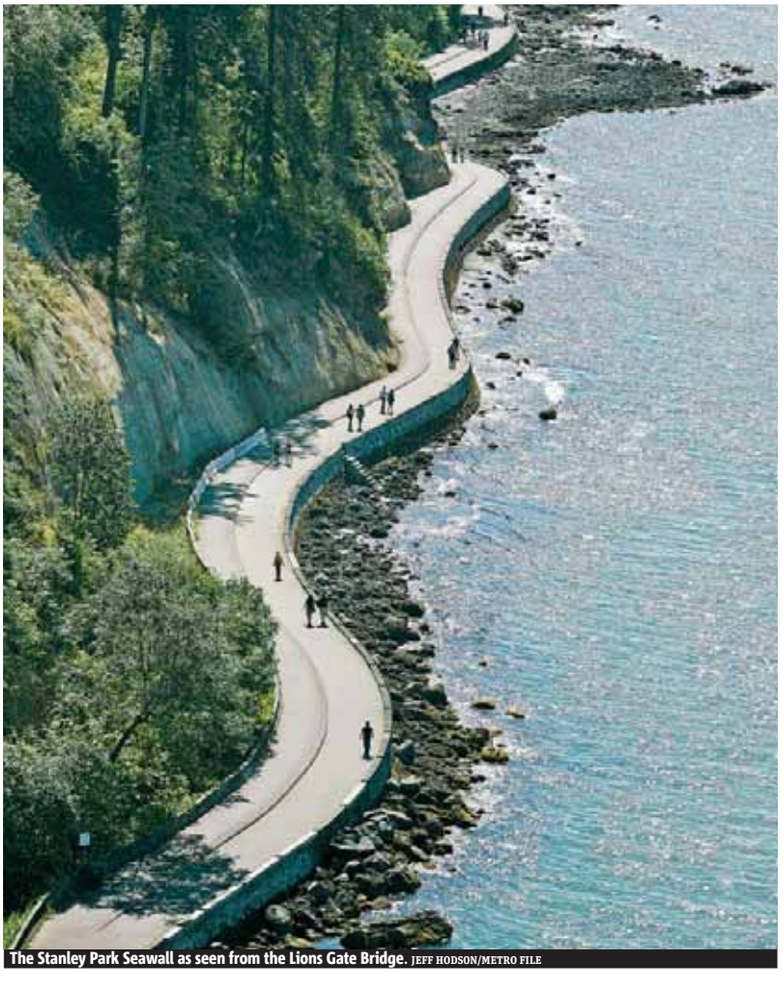
Kinder Morgan's proposed pipeline expansion would bring about 300 to 400 oil tankers per year through the Burrard Inlet and into Vancouver Harbour, which would make Vancouver more susceptible to a devastating oil spill, West said.

"We also have a long way to go when it comes to oil-spill preparedness and safety," he said, adding it doesn't help that the federal government decided to close the Kitsilano Coast Guard station and cut the budget for oil-spill responders.

"Even if we did train people, that doesn't mean we can go ahead and expand a pipeline. Really, the best way to reduce risk is to reduce the amount of (oil-tanker) traffic."

The Wilderness Committee and Tanker Free B.C. are hosting a townhall meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas



The Stanley Park Seawall as seen from the Lions Gate Bridge. JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE

Nash's unlikely adventure

NBA superstar is still surprised he wound up with the L.A. Lakers PAGE 28

Folk festival set to deliver

Eclectic mix of musical acts at Jericho Beach Park include Lucinda Williams, K'Naan and Hey Rosetta! PAGE 20

Bored of beef burgers?

Put some pizzazz in your midsummer barbecues with patties made of tuna, salmon and crabmeat PAGE 27

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Production brain drain a real threat, insiders say

Fight for jobs. Rockstar's recent move to Ontario part of larger trend: Industry insiders

MATT KIELTYKA
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Vancouver remains a hotspot for video-game and media-production companies but competition is fierce, say industry insiders.

Minister Ida Chong defended the province's tax-incentive structure and supports for video-game, digital-media and film-production industries this week after Rockstar Games announced it was moving its Vancouver studio to Oakville, Ont. — an expansion "supported by the Ontario government," according to the game developer.

But not everyone agrees the cluster of local talent is being cultivated in British Columbia.

Matt Toner, president of Vancouver digital-media company Zeroes 2 Heroes, says there has been a substantial "brain drain" in Vancouver's video-game scene.

He said that a few years ago there were more than 60 "viable" game studios in the city but that number has dwindled down to around 20.

While much of that has to do with the changing industry itself, Toner — who is seeking to run for the NDP in the next election — says not enough is being done to keep talent in British Columbia.

Taking it for granted?

B.C. "has no comprehensive strategy. They take the industry for granted much like they take the mountains and oceans for granted."

Matt Toner, president of Vancouver digital media company Zeroes 2 Heroes

"You're losing the critical mass. You may think they have the core, but they're starting to leave," he said.

Ontario offers up to 40 per cent in income-tax credits to game developers, compared to 17.5 per cent in B.C.

Vancouver city councillor Andrea Reimer said the digital-media sector, a key part of the city's green-jobs plan, continues to grow overall despite competition.

"Dozens of studios have opened up satellites in Vancouver," she said. "What we've heard is that as long as taxes are in the same competitive ballpark, it's the other things that start to matter."

The concentration of talent and companies in B.C., quality of life and training institutions still largely tip the scales in Vancouver's favour, Reimer said.

Jess Brown, CG supervisor at Stargate Studios, agrees Vancouver remains attractive for film- and TV-production companies but he has noticed a shift as Ontario aggressively pursues jobs.

"We've seen a trend in productions going to Ontario right now," Brown said.

He said the tax incentives between the two provinces make a "huge difference" — and there's some anxiety over the return of the PST — but the pre-established industry in Vancouver keeps it competitive.

"The labour and talent are still in Vancouver, people want to stay," Brown said. "If B.C. bridges the gap, it would help."

Pedal medals handed out at Gastown Grand Prix

Riders negotiate the hairpin turn during the revived Gastown Grand Prix Wednesday night, part of the B.C. Superweek series of cycling races across the Lower Mainland. The race, formerly the Tour de Gastown, returned to the brick streets after a four-year hiatus. Loren Rowney of Australia won the women's race, while Ken Hanson of Santa Barbara, Calif., won the men's. B.C. Superweek continues Thursday with the Giro di Burnaby and concludes Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the Tour de White Rock.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

1 NEWS

On the web

Weighed down? Feed your head instead

Losing the battle of the bulge? Don't blame yourself, blame your brain, say doctors who are using electronic pulses to rework hunger pathways in the brain. Go online to see how neurostimulation is helping the obese lose weight.

Mobile news

A tiny blood-sucking parasite from the Caribbean has been named in honour of Jamaican reggae icon Bob Marley. Is it an homage to the singer or sly insult? Scan the code to find out more.

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Reprieve. TransLink admits TaxiSaver error, reverses decision to scrap program

TransLink's board of directors admitted Wednesday that its decision to scrap the TaxiSaver program was uninformed and wrong.

The program, designed to give taxi credits to disabled people to get to medical appointments and other commitments, was scheduled for the chopping block until strong public outcry made the transit authority reconsider.

After a round of public consultation, TransLink board chair Nancy Olewiler announced TaxiSaver would live on.

"The board of directors met this morning and made the decision to reverse the decision to get rid of the TaxiSaver program," said Olewiler. "I regret any angst that we have caused for people."

Along with the reversal came an admission of error on TransLink's part.

"We actually, believe it or not, thought we would be making the system better," explained Olewiler. "We just didn't have that depth of understanding. That's where we went wrong: We just didn't understand the fulsomeness of the program."

TransLink now plans to do more consultations as it looks for ways to make its accessible transit strategy better, with Olewiler adamant that the ill-fated TaxiSaver cancellation was motivated by cost-savings.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Treaty passed by 51%

Group may challenge treaty vote

A group opposed to the terms of a self-government treaty with the Sliammon First Nation says it's considering a legal challenge of Tuesday's narrow vote that approved the pact.

The Protectors of Sliammon Sovereignty tried unsuccessfully to halt the vote. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charged with assault

Kamloops man on trial for spanking

A father is on trial in a Kamloops court for assault causing bodily harm over allegations he spanked his daughter and left marks on her back and leg. The incident occurred last July, and the girl was taken to hospital by her mother on the urging of her grandmother. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Motorcyclist who allegedly filmed 300 km/h ride charged

A motorcyclist who allegedly filmed himself speeding down the Trans-Canada Highway on Vancouver Island at nearly 300 km/h has been charged.

A video posted to YouTube in April shows a blue Yamaha motorcycle flying down the highway at roughly triple the speed limit. Surrounding vehicles appear to crawl along the road as the bike rockets down the dividing line to pass them. The incident occurred on Hwy. 1 between McKenzie Avenue and Millstream Road.

Saanich police got word of the video as locals circulated it around social media.

On Wednesday, Saanich police announced charges against 25-year-old Randy George Scott of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle. However, his whereabouts are currently unknown.

ELIZABETH HAMES/METRO IN VICTORIA

Writer and director Joss Whedon arrives at the premiere of Marvel Studios' The Avengers at the El Capitan Theatre on April 11 in Hollywood.

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Whedon University: Buffy 101 to Advanced Avenger-nomics

SCW5 at UBC. Annual conference brings together experts on the works of 'the Shakespeare of contemporary culture'

MATT KIELTYKA
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Eighty-nine esteemed academics from universities the world over are in town to present their latest findings to the public this week.

No, no one will explain how discovering the Higgs boson will change the way we understand the universe.

Instead, topics will range from "exploring cultural narrative at work in Buffy the Vampire Slayer" to "the Faustian bargain in Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog."

Welcome to the Slayage Conference on the Whedonverses 5 (SCW5).

Hosted at UBC from Thursday to Sunday, SCW5 brings together the best and brightest experts on the works of cult director Joss Whedon, who wrote and directed The Avengers.

Don't be so surprised.

Dr. David Lavery, professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University and Whedon Studies Association co-chair, says the amount of inside jokes, pop-culture references, subtext, social commentary and philosophy Whedon crams in his TV, movie and comic-book projects makes him a goldmine for academic study.

In fact, "Buffy studies" dwarfs nearly all other pop-culture-based academic pursuits.

"There are over 30 books on Whedon now, more than 300 research articles," said Lavery, who teaches a university English course on Whedon. "There is so much in his work that needs explaining, that needs referencing. He seems to be talking to a secret group of people who get all of his inside jokes, and people love to pick up on those things."

The works of Joss Whedon

- Buffy the Vampire Slayer/ Angel (TV and comics)
- Astonishing X-Men (comics)
- Firefly/Serenity (TV, comics and movies)
- Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog (miniseries)
- Dollhouse (TV)
- The Cabin in the Woods (movie)
- The Avengers (movie)

The field is about to get even more crowded, now that the success of The Avengers — currently the third-highest-grossing movie of all time — has catapulted Whedon from a cult favourite to a bankable box-office commodity.

Following the success of The Avengers, Whedon returned to his home studio and shot a version of Much Ado About Nothing. His fans see it as a fitting ode.

"It's looking like he could be the Shakespeare of contemporary popular culture," Lavery said.

Follow Matt Kieltyka on Twitter @Mkieltyka

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Heading to prison.
B.C. pilot who flew drugs across border pleads guilty

A British Columbia helicopter pilot is headed to prison in the U.S. after admitting he spent years spiriting marijuana shipments across the border.

Henry Rosenau, 61, of Armstrong pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiracy to import marijuana, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a news release. The guilty plea came hours before Rosenau's trial was scheduled to begin.

Rosenau admitted that between 2000 and 2005, he flew dozens of loads of so-called "B.C. Bud" marijuana into forested areas in Washington, Idaho and Montana, the department said.

Rosenau also flew other Canadians into the U.S. to work as offloaders and transporters for the drug shipments.

In 2005, the RCMP confronted Rosenau in Canada after one of his trips. The Mounties searched the helicopter and found a loaded handgun, night-vision goggles, two satellite phones and a GPS device that contained the locations of landing sites used by marijuana traffickers.

Rosenau will be sentenced in October. The charge carries a minimum sentence of five years in prison and maximum of 40 years.

More than 40 people were indicted after a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigation dubbed Operation Frozen Timber, which was looking into allegations that smugglers were transporting B.C. marijuana into the United States and cocaine into Canada.

Canadian and American authorities intercepted more than 17 drug loads, including a February 2005 shipment in which five suitcases were found containing 169 kilograms of cocaine. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transcripts. MLA to obtain more B.C. Rail trial documents to shed light on dealings

Persistent B.C. politician John van Dongen will be getting his hands on more transcripts from the B.C. Rail corruption trial in his quest to bring new information to the public eye.

The transcripts date back to June 2009 for hearings that occurred before the lengthy trial ended in guilty pleas by two former government employees.

The B.C. government agreed to pay $6 million in legal bills for Dave Basi and Bobby Virk before the pair admitted to leaking government secrets in exchange for benefits.

Van Dongen has already obtained several binders of documents relating to his bid to uncover why the legal fees were paid for the two former ministerial aides.

Van Dongen's lawyer Roger McConchie says his client wants the documents in order to examine several avenues of investigation, but said he couldn't elaborate until after van Dongen goes through the information.

B.C.'s auditor general is currently reviewing the government's decision to waive Basi and Virk's legal costs, and van Dongen has intervenor status in that application.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saanich North

Another Liberal MLA won't seek re-election

Premier Christy Clark is losing another one of her MLA's — the second this week.

Murray Coell says he won't be seeking re-election in the Victoria-area riding of Saanich North and the Islands that he's served for 16 years.

On Monday, Surrey-Tynehead MLA Dave Hayer announced he would also not be running in next year's election.

Coell and Hayer join fellow Liberals Kevin Krueger and Kash Heed who also recently announced they'd be stepping down.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Open by 2016

Province earmarks $27M for two new city schools

The B.C. government has come up with almost $27 million for two new elementary schools in Vancouver.

More than $14 million will be spent to replace General Gordon elementary, a 100-year-old structure on the city's west side that is not earthquake safe.

Another $12 million will go to a new school called International Elementary in the fast-growing False Creek area of Vancouver. The schools should be open by 2016.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Olympic BMX cyclist Tory Nyhaug is seen during a training session in Abbotsford Wednesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coquitlam's Nyhaug overcomes bumpy road to London

BMXer. Cracked wrist, ruptured spleen sustained last May won't stop cyclist from competing in Olympics

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Coquitlam cyclist Tory Nyhaug's Olympic dreams have been re-ignited.

The 20-year-old BMXer bounced back from cracking his wrist and rupturing his spleen in a crash during the final round of the UCI BMX Supercross World Cup in the Netherlands last May.

Cycling Canada officially announced Nyhaug's nomination Wednesday and he is set to race in the London Olympics.

Nyhaug, who was training in Abbotsford Wednesday, said his road to recovery has been difficult, but is going on the right track.

"The first month was really tough mentally," he said Wednesday. "It was such a bad injury and the first couple of weeks, we weren't sure that I was going to be able to go to the Olympics."

Nyhaug is Canada's top ranked BMX rider and has been the obvious choice to fill the lone Canadian spot for the Summer Games.

"I feel 100 per cent healthy and we're just fine-tuning some stuff on the track and building some more power in the gym," he added. "I'm feeling better every day and we're all confident that I'll be ready to go in London."

Nyhaug said it was the "right decision" to have his spleen, which he ruptured previously in 2010, removed. He had the surgery three weeks after his crash.

"It's one of those organs you can live without," he said. "If I'd kept it, it would heal in about six months. The chance of re-rupturing even just going on a hike or swimming was high."

The first Olympic seeding runs take place Aug. 8 and the finals wrap up Aug. 10.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

B.C.'s premier calls Enbridge's U.S. oil spill disgraceful

If Enbridge plans to operate its planned pipeline in B.C. the way it did in Michigan, where millions of litres of oil spilled into the Kalamazoo River, the company can "forget it," Premier Christy Clark said Wednesday.

The premier's statements are her strongest yet in connection with the Northern Gateway project, but she is still refusing to take a position on the proposed 1,170-kilometre pipeline between Alberta's oilsands and the B.C. coast.

The province has said it plans to remain neutral on the pipeline proposal until the ongoing environmental process is complete, and Clark's comments on Wednesday did not represent a significant shift from what she and her Liberal government have already said.

Still, Clark had strong words for the Calgary-based energy company when asked about a report by U.S. investigators that concluded Enbridge handled a July 2010 oil spill in southwestern Michigan like the "Keystone Kops."

Clark called the company's actions "disgraceful."

"I think the company should be deeply embarrassed about what unfolded — we saw that in the report," Clark told reporters in Kamloops.

"If they think they're going to operate like that in British Columbia, forget it."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Christy Clark
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Just 15,000 inmates

Toews springs a jail surprise

Federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says predictions of an explosion in the prison population are not coming true.

Toews says the inmate population stood at just under 15,000 as of June 30 — almost 3,000 below estimates by the Correctional Service of Canada.

Toews says the numbers refute opposition suggestions the government's tough-on-crime laws will put more people behind bars.

The lower-than-expected numbers, he added, will allow the government to spend almost $1.5 billion less over the next seven years by not building prisons.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Branson family

A space trip? That's kid stuff

Richard Branson's space flight will be a family affair: The British tycoon says his two adult children will join him on a two-hour journey on SpaceshipTwo next year — along with 120 others.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Richard Branson reveals his space plans on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doctored photos

Petition targets Teen Vogue

Seventeen magazine promised it would not alter body shapes in photographs. Now a group of teenage girls has collected 28,000 signatures asking Teen Vogue to stop digitally manipulating images.

The girls, affiliated with the protest group SPARK Movement, said Teen Vogue and other magazines present an unrealistic notion of beauty.

Teen Vogue said: "We feature healthy models on the pages of our magazine and shoot dozens of non-models and readers every year and do not retouch them to alter their body size. Teen Vogue pledges to continue this practice." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

700 geese gassed in safety flap

Airliners in danger. Officials finally get permission to storm refuge near JFK airport

U.S. wildlife officials finally got their hands on 700 Canada geese.

They've gassed the geese that were holed up in a bird refuge next to John F. Kennedy airport in New York.

The birds were considered prime culprits in deadly aviation strikes. But they were untouchable while living on protected land.

That all changed Monday. Armed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife permits issued June 29, officials snared the 700 geese, shipped them to upstate New York for processing and will hand out the meat to food charities.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A true hero

One Canada-goose midair strike produced true pilot heroism.

- **Impact.** Canada geese sucked into jet engines crippled U.S. Airways Flight 1549 out of LaGuardia in 2009.
- **Splash.** Capt. Chesley Sullenberger glided the plane into the Hudson River and saved all 155 people on board.

Terror hits a picnic trip as school bus spins into gorge

This is the spot where a student picnic trip ended in tragedy. A crowd gathers around an upturned school bus that fell into a gorge after an accident at Nambalnar, about 47 kilometres from Srinagar, India, on Wednesday. Two died and dozens were injured, reports said. MUKHTAR KHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zoo carnage. Siberian tigers maul man to death

Siberian tigers have fatally mauled a man inside an enclosure at the Copenhagen Zoo.

Investigators haven't ruled out suicide by the 21-year-old Afghan-born man.

"We don't know why he went in and why he ended up in the enclosure," said police spokesperson Lars Borg.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mystery. Rich woman dead, husband arrested

London police have arrested the husband of one of Britain's richest women, who was found dead in her home.

Eva Rausing was the wife of Hans Kristian Rausing, whose father made a fortune manufacturing laminated cardboard drink containers.

The couple waged a long battle against drug addiction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tears. Japan's joy turns to sorrow as panda dies

A baby giant panda died at a Tokyo zoo on Wednesday, less than a week after its birth.

The birth had created excitement across Japan, and the nation is mourning the baby's death. Tokyo's Ueno Zoo said the male panda, which had not been named yet, died of pneumonia Wednesday morning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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627 1st Avenue NE
Chinook Centre
Deerfoot Mall
Kensington Village
Market Mall
Marlborough Mall
Pacific Place Mall
Southland Crossing
Sunridge Mall
Westbrook Mall

EDMONTON
10122 149th Street NW
2714 48th Street NW
9303 34th Avenue NW
Abbotsfield Mall
Bonnie Doon Mall
Edmonton City Centre
Edmonton City Centre West
Kingsway Mall
Millwoods Shopping Centre
Northgate Centre
West Edmonton Mall
Westmount Mall
Londonderry Mall

FORT SASKATCHEWAN
Fort Mall

ST. ALBERT
St. Albert Centre

BRITISH COLUMBIA

ABBOTSFORD
Seven Oaks Mall

BURNABY
4501 North Road
4700 Kingsway†
Crystal Mall
Metrotown

COQUITLAM
Coquitlam Centre

DELTA
9255 Scott Road

LANGLEY
19705 Fraser Highway

NEW WESTMINSTER
800 Carnarvon Street
805 Boyd Street
948 12th Street

NORTH VANCOUVER
2002 Park Royal North
935 Marine Drive†
Capilano Mall

RICHMOND
4380 No. 3 Road*
6551 No. 3 Road†
Lansdowne Mall
Richmond Centre Mall

SURREY
8334 128th Street
15299 68th Avenue
7028 120th Street
Central City Mall
Guildford Town Centre

VANCOUVER
1139-88 West Pender
116 Davie Street
1160 Davie Street†
1191 Robson Street†
1238 Robson Street*
1251 Kingsway
2228 West 4th Avenue
2723 East Hastings Street
3149 Kingsway
500 West Broadway
555 West 12th Avenue†
5698 Victoria Drive
6446 Fraser Street
665 Robson Street†
779 Thurlow Street
807 Hornby Street*
Kingsgate Mall

WEST VANCOUVER
2002 Park Royal South†

Hazing death. Florida university president resigns amid scandal

The president of Florida A&M University resigned Wednesday, the same day the school was sued by parents of a drum major who died after being beaten by fellow band members in a hazing ritual. It was unclear if the two events were related.

Robert Champion's death put a spotlight on the controversial new-member rituals among some of the country's top college marching bands.

Champion died after fellow band members beat him aboard a bus parked outside a hotel following a football game in November against the school's archrival.

The school's trustees in June gave university president James Ammons a vote of no confidence after questioning his management of the band prior to Champion's death.

Champion's parents, Robert and Pamela, applauded Ammons' resignation, calling it part of a necessary "house cleaning" at the university.

Eleven band members face felony hazing charges and have pleaded not guilty. Their trial is scheduled to begin the same month as Ammons' resignation, in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sanctions rollback

U.S. set to invest in Myanmar oil

The United States is poised to allow U.S. companies to invest with Myanmar's state oil-and-gas enterprise as the Obama administration takes its biggest step yet to roll back sanctions.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suicide attack

Yemeni cadets killed in bombing

A suspected al-Qaida suicide bomber detonated his explosives among a crowd of Yemeni police cadets as they were leaving their academy Wednesday, killing at least 10 of them, according to security officials.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Americans agree: 9-11 is TV event of past 50 years

Research. Despite consensus on No. 1, men and women differ on cultural impact of other memorable telecasts

In this Sept. 11, 2001, photo, the twin towers of the World Trade Center burn behind the Empire State Building in New York. A study released Wednesday found the television coverage of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack left the largest impression on viewers in the past 50 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack is by far the most memorable moment shared by television viewers during the past 50 years, a study released on Wednesday concluded.

The only thing that came close was President John F. Kennedy's assassination and its aftermath in 1963, but that was only for the people aged 55 and over who experienced those events as they happened instead of replayed as an historical artifact.

Sony Electronics and the Nielsen television research company collaborated on the survey. They ranked TV moments for their impact not just by asking people if they remembered watching them, but if they recalled where they watched it, who they were with and whether they talked to other people about what they had seen. By that measure, the Sept. 11 tragedy was nearly twice as impactful as the second-ranked moment, which was the coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Men and women agreed on the three most impactful television events — Sept. 11, Katrina and O.J. Simpson. After that, some interests diverged.

For example, women ranked the 1997 funeral of Princess Diana as the fourth most memorable event, while men put that at No. 23. Young people ranked Barack Obama's Election Night speech in 2008 at No. 3, while older viewers ranked it 24. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wendy Cross, shown in Atlanta on Tuesday, is out $300,000 US after bank director Aubrey Lee Price allegedly fled the country with $17 million of his clients' money.
DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. bank director disappears with $17M

After penning a rambling confession to financial regulators and writing notes to his family, a south Georgia bank director boarded a ferry in Florida and disappeared.

Now local and federal investigators are trying to determine whether Aubrey Lee Price killed himself, as his lengthy confession would have them believe, or whether he slipped away with $17 million US of investors' money. His family has told authorities they believe he's dead, but federal investigators aren't so sure and have offered $20,000 for information leading to his arrest.

"I created false statements, covered up my losses and deceived and hurt the very people I was trying to help," says the confession letter investigators believe was written by Price.

Wendy Cross moved about $300,000 to Price's firm after a trusted financial adviser told her it would be a good investment. She met Price in person once. She described a very religious, soft-spoken man with a gentle demeanour and an air of kindness. "He should have won an Oscar for his performance that day," she said. "He has left a path of financial carnage."

Price left his home in south Georgia on June 16, telling his family he was headed to Guatemala for business, said Sgt. Aaron Pritchett of the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Online vigilante group targets pedophiles

Calling them out. Netherlands chapter of collective announces plans to shut down child-porn sites, publish suspected users' names

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

Hacker collecti ve Anonymous has launched Operation PedoChat, an international campaign against online pedophiles, disabling child-abuse websites and publishing lists of suspected users.

In a video message posted Monday on Anonymous Netherlands, a masked spokesman announced: "We Anonymous aim to diminish if not eradicate this plague from the Internet. For the good of our followers, for the good of mankind, and for our own enjoyment we shall expel from the Internet and systematically destroy any such boards that continue to operate."

There has been a rapid response from the group's international chapters and the statement has been translated into several languages. Websites such as boychat.org and boylovenews.com have been taken down and more than 85 further sites are targeted. Thousands of suspected pedophiles are named on Anonymous websites.

Anonymous with a Guy Fawkes mask in Los Angeles. VINCENT DIAMONTE|FLICKR

The group is best known for attacks on major credit agencies and government websites, but has recently made pedophiles a focus. In 2011, the group hacked 40 websites and released the names of 1,500 suspected pedophiles as part of Operation Darknet, and published another list of names in June. Experts believe "Operation PedoChat" has taken the campaign to a new level. "This time Anonymous members seem much more set on doing damage as factions around the world rally behind the cause," commented tech blog ZDNet.

Frontier justice

A spokesperson for the CEOP, the U.K. police department for child protection online, told Metro that Anonymous "may be compromising ongoing investigations" and that activists hacking illegal sites could be prosecuted themselves.

Despite a positive reaction on Twitter, victim support groups are critical. "Cheap publicity-seeking can be counterproductive as there is a risk the pedophiles can go off-radar and disappear," Peter Saunders, CEO of the U.K. National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC), told Metro.

West Virginia. Man accused of enslaving and torturing wife for years

Authorities say a U.S. man tortured and enslaved his wife for much of the past decade, forcing her to endure two pregnancies and childbirths in shackles.

A criminal complaint against Peter Lizon, 37, says one baby was stillborn and buried on the family farm in West Virginia. The other survived but apparently has never had medical care.

Chief Deputy Tony Boggs said 43-year-old Stephanie Lizon endured more suffering than virtually any domestic-violence victim he's seen.

"This appears to go beyond abuse to what I would consider torture," he said.

The complaint says Stephanie Lizon was burned on her back and breasts with irons and frying pans and had her foot smashed with a piece of farm equipment, among other things.

Peter Lizon's attorney, Shawn Bayliss, said the allegations are not only untrue but "the fabrication of a fertile imagination or a feeble mind, one of the two." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miner strike turns ugly

A woman grapples with riot police during a demonstration by Spanish coal miners Wednesday in Madrid. Six demonstrators were hospitalized after police fired rubber bullets. Police made seven arrests, and two officers were injured. DENIS DOYLE/GETTY IMAGES

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Derailment launches emergency crews

This aerial photograph shows a derailed freight train on Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio. Part of the freight train carrying ethanol derailed and caught fire early in the day, shooting flames skyward into the darkness and prompting the evacuation of an area more than a kilometre wide as firefighters and hazardous materials crews monitored the blaze. Nobody aboard the train was injured.

EAMON QUEENEY, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romney booed during pitch to black voters

NAACP. U.S. presidential candidate takes shots at Obama while attempting to reach out to key demographic

Quoted

"He'll be standing in that room asking people for their votes at the same time that Republican legislators are trying to disenfranchise minority communities."

Karen Finney, Democratic consultant

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney made a major pitch to black voters Wednesday with a heavy emphasis on the economy, but was booed when he promised to get rid of the Obama administration's health-care overhaul.

"I will kill every expensive and unnecessary program I can find, and that includes Obamacare," Romney said, then waited and smiled through the crowd's disapproval.

He faced more boos when he criticized President Barack Obama, who won 95 per cent of the black vote in 2008, and expects high support again in the November election.

Republicans and Democrats said Romney was making a statement just by speaking to the oldest U.S. civil-rights group. His speech tried to show independent and swing voters that his campaign is inclusive.

"If equal opportunity in America were an accomplished fact, then a chronically bad economy would be equally bad for everyone," Romney told the annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Instead, it's worse for African Americans in almost every way." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mauled. Raccoons chase, bite Washington woman

A Washington state woman says she was attacked and bitten by raccoons after her dog chased several of the animals up a tree.

Michaela Lee had just finished jogging in Lakewood's Fort Steilacoom Park on Monday when her dog got loose.

When she went to grab the dog's leash, several other raccoons started to scratch her legs, chased her for more than 20 metres, knocked her down and bit her.

Neighbour Michael Parks told the News Tribune he heard Lee screaming and saw her on the ground. He then called 911.

The 28-year-old Lee was treated for about 16 puncture wounds and had numerous scratches. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forced abortion

Family accepts cash settlement

The family of a woman forced to undergo an abortion because she ran afoul of China's one-child policy has accepted a cash settlement of 70,600 yuan ($11,200 US), apparently ending a controversy that caused a public uproar and embarrassed the government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘Save Lennox’ fight fails as authorities put dog to sleep

Cause célèbre. Belfast pet inspired a legal battle and animal-rights protests on both sides of the Atlantic

A heated two-year campaign to save a pitbull-terrier-type dog in Northern Ireland came to an end Wednesday with the dog being “humanely put to sleep,” according to a news release from the Belfast City Council.

Lennox’s death was in “accordance with the Order of the County Court which was affirmed by the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal,” city officials said in a statement.

The seven-year-old dog was seized by Belfast City Council dog wardens in May 2010. Experts suggested the dog represented a danger due to his unpredictability and should be put down.

This family photo shows Lennox, a pitbull-terrier-type dog who lived in Belfast. CONTRIBUTED

Judges from Northern Ireland’s most senior court rejected a bid by the dog’s owner — Caroline Barnes — to overturn that decision supported by two lower courts. The 35-year-old woman was heartbroken when she heard the news of her dog’s demise, adding that her teenage daughter Brooke had not even been given the chance to say a final farewell to the family pet.

“We had told Brooke that even if we don’t win she can still see Lennox, have her last pictures with him and say goodbye,” Barnes told the Belfast Telegraph. “To then have to tell her that ‘No, that is not happening,’ it has been extremely unfair.” The family has been told that Lennox’s body will not be returned. The dog is to be cremated and the family will be given his ashes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Online sensation

- The campaign to save Lennox was championed by about 200,000 people in an online petition.
- Celebrities such as dog trainer Victoria Stillwell, boxer Lennox Lewis and Northern Ireland’s First Minister Peter Robinson had all called out on Twitter for the dog to be spared, the BBC reports.

Dances with bulls

Spanish bull fighter Jimenez Fortes performs with a Fuente Ymbro’s bull at the San Fermin fiestas in Pamplona, northern Spain, on Wednesday. ALVARO BARRIENTOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Alaska

Baby beluga had multiple infections

Necropsy results show the baby beluga whale rescued in Alaska last month had multiple infections, including in his heart and lungs.

An Alaska SeaLife Center veterinarian says early tests also confirmed suspicions that the whale’s immune system wasn’t fully developed.

The whale’s condition deteriorated over the weekend, and it died early Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A protester shouts slogans during a demonstration in support of female victims of abuse and violence in Kabul on Wednesday. AHMAD JAMSHID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan. Protesters rally against killing of woman accused of adultery

Dozens of men and women took to the streets of Kabul on Wednesday to protest the recent public slaying of an Afghan woman accused of adultery whose gruesome, execution-style killing was captured on video.

The footage, which surfaced recently, shows the woman being shot multiple times about 10 days ago in Parwan province, north of the Afghan capital. The gunman was encouraged by people who stood nearby, smiling and cheering.

Police in Parwan said the Taliban were behind the killing, but the insurgents have denied they ordered or carried out the slaying.

It was a reminder that girls and women still suffer shocking abuse in Afghanistan, but the protest also indicated that people’s views on women’s rights could be slowly changing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Condemnation

- The death of the unidentified woman, who was said to be in her 20s, set off a storm of condemnation. President Hamid Karzai, the U.S. Embassy, the top NATO military commander in Afghanistan and activist groups all denounced the killing.

THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF ICED TEA

Cool new cash can't handle the heatwave

Melting money. Polymer banknotes reportedly don't stand up to this summer's sweltering conditions

GRAHAM LANKTREE
Metro in Ottawa

Shrivelled bills were all one man found after he stored his money in a tin near a heater. CONTRIBUTED/CAMBRIDGE TIMES

Despite having more security features than you can shake a stick at, Canada's new polymer-based banknotes may have one weakness — the sweltering summer heat.

Brittney Halldorson, a teller at the Interior Savings Credit Union in Kelowna, says the new $50 and $100 bills are supposed to withstand boiling water, but she has seen cases where several of the bills melted.

"We have seen it a few times now where there have been either three to four, or five to 10 (bills) all melted together," she said.

In January, a report from Cambridge, Ont., noted that a man who stored his bills in a tin box near a heater returned the next day to find them shrivelled and melted together.

"We've put these notes through a lot of testing so that they stand up to our very hot summers and cold winters. The notes perform as intended under the conditions," said Julie Girard, a currency spokesperson for the Bank of Canada.

Girard said that if anyone has a bill that has been damaged in any way, they can have the money replaced by filling out a form on the bank's website.

The bank's new $20 note is set for release this November, Girard said, and the remaining $5 and $10 denominations will be out before the end of 2013.

RIM's board takes heat over changes

Research In Motion has taken many hits in recent months, but the composition of the BlackBerry maker's board of directors is a growing concern for some shareholders who are pushing for major changes sooner rather than later.

Vague assurances by chairwoman Barbara Stymiest of changes to come at the company's annual meeting this week left some, including activist shareholder Vic Alboini of Jaguar Financial, unsatisfied and calling for a makeover of the board now.

Alboini, who declared his hard stance at the shareholder gathering, showed no signs of letting up Wednesday, saying chief executive Thorsten Heins was not suited for the job.

"I think he should be gone from the company. He was there for the last five years and he was part of the problem," Alboini said in an interview Wednesday.

Alboini has called for RIM to bring on more diverse board members, including one from Silicon Valley and two from New York, adding that the company could also benefit from additional non-Canadian members.

"You might also need somebody in Southeast Asia," he said, of a market that RIM has proclaimed of particular interest as it looks to push sales of its older BlackBerry smartphones in the short term.

"If there's some person that has worked for Apple, or Samsung and has super marketing experience, why not bring them on the board?"

Heins previously served as RIM's chief operating officer and took the reins of the company in January from co-CEOs Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis, and quickly assured investors that RIM would stay the course with no layoffs in sight.

Now the company is in the midst of a massive layoff of about 5,000 employees in an effort to help save about $1 billion by the end of fiscal 2013.

"I think there's a real substantial loss of credibility between Heins and the shareholders," Alboini said.

"You've got to be genuine as a leader; you've got to be authentic. There's nothing wrong with giving somebody a chance to fix (the company), but you've got to be honest about what happened in the past."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil. Lessons from spill will apply to Northern Gateway: Enbridge

Lessons learned from an Enbridge pipeline spill in Michigan two years ago will be applied to the controversial Northern Gateway pipeline and other future projects, the soon-to-be CEO of the pipeline company said Wednesday.

"We haven't just been sitting around for the past two years," Enbridge president Al Monaco told reporters at the TD Securities Energy Conference.

"We made lots of enhancements in various areas of our business and we're going to continue to apply those learnings."

Monaco made his remarks a day after a report by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board slammed the company's response to the leak, in which some three million litres of crude spilled into wetlands, a creek and the Kalamazoo River.

Some employees are "no longer with us," said Monaco when asked if anyone had been disciplined following the spill. He declined to be more specific.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

San Bernardino

Another California city goes bankrupt

As recently as last month, no city in California had opted for bankruptcy since 2008, and no U.S. city of more than 200,000 people had ever chosen that route.

The past two weeks have changed that, as the fiscal struggles faced by many American cities became too much for some to bear. San Bernardino became the third California city in that small span to choose Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection with a city council vote on Tuesday night.

The city of about 210,000 people will also become the second-largest in the nation ever to file for bankruptcy.

Stockton, the northern California city of nearly 300,000, became the biggest when it filed for Chapter 9 on June 28. The much smaller city of Mammoth Lakes voted for bankruptcy July 3.

San Bernardino's City Council directed the city attorney to make the move during a meeting in which administrators explained the dire fiscal circumstances and urged them to choose the bankruptcy option.

The city was facing a budget shortfall of $45.8 million US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q2. Consumer spending up, but June figures suggest slowdown: Study

Consumer spending increased in the second quarter compared with a year ago but figures for June point to a slowdown, according to a report by credit and debit card processor Moneris Solutions.

Moneris said Wednesday that overall, consumer spending increased 4.67 per cent year-over-year in the quarter, but that the smallest amount of growth, 3.72 per cent, occurred in June.

"While the Canadian economy continued to experience healthy growth in the second quarter of 2012, some signs point to a potential reduction in spending," said Jim Baumgartner, president and CEO of Moneris Solutions.

Economists have also been predicting a slowdown in spending as consumer debt levels are already at all-time highs and its expected that Canadians will rein in their expenses.

During the second quarter, the entertainment category saw the highest increase in overall spending, up 9.43 per cent, while hotels and restaurants came in a close second, with growths of 6.75 and 6.41 per cent, respectively.

The specialty retail category also experienced strong growth, with stationery (6.62 per cent), florists (6.33 per cent) and pet shops (6.14 per cent) leading the increase in dollars spent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Modest growth

2.74%

Apparel, a traditionally strong spending category for Canadians, experienced more modest growth, with an increase of 2.74 per cent compared to the same period last year, Moneris said.

Market Minute

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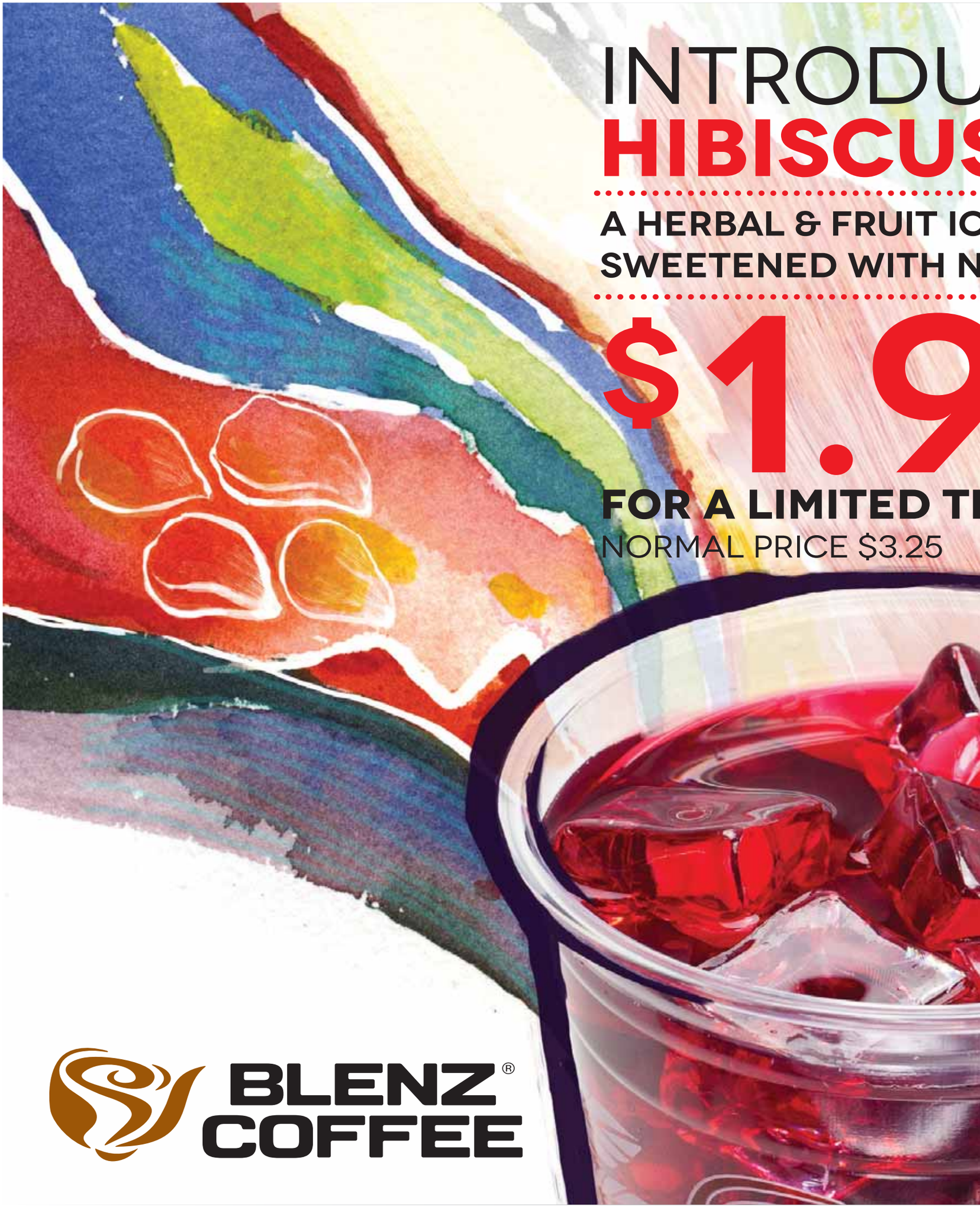
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THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF ICED TEA

MAN VS. TOILET: THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Today, I am a man.

I mean, I've been male for as long as I can remember. But I've never been a guy's guy. I like hockey because of the elegant flow. I like The Tragically Hip because of the delicate lyrics. And I like MMA because I enjoy watching jackasses in bars swinging their fists at the TV and yelling "Kill him!" when the screen is showing two men hugging on the floor.

This lack of manhood made me uncertain when confronted with the challenge every true man must face: The clogged toilet.

I had to cross the Rubicon, and it wasn't flowing properly.

It started as all clogs do, with the water rising towards the top of the bowl and me willing it to stop with a battle cry of "No, no, no!" and staring at it really hard.

Defeated

At one point, the toilet ripped the plunger from my hands, broke it in two and spit it across the room, chuckling at me. The toilet will independently confirm this story.

I tried to defeat it with the plunger. But this was no ordinary clog. You know those movies where fighter jets are flying around and their missiles do nothing, like with The Squid From Beyond the Stars? That was my plunger.

At one point the toilet ripped the plunger from my hands, broke it in two and spit it across the room, chuckling at me. The toilet will independently confirm this story.

This was my darkest hour. So I did as many great warriors through history have done when all seemed lost. I turned to the sages. In this case, plumbers on YouTube with Louisiana accents who brag about their toilets the way other guys show off their sports cars.

Here I learned about my silver bullet, my Excalibur, my Star Trek technology that solves everything and is then forgotten in all future episodes.

I learned of the closet auger — a big snake that goes into the toilet, grabs the evil inside, and rips it out of the Hellmouth. It seemed a little out of my depth, but I'd have used a whip and chair if they'd told me to.

I asked a few acquaintances at the local watering hole if they had an auger. Because I had not yet earned the respect of my fellow men, they all asked me the same thing: "Did you try a plunger?" as if I'd never heard of one. I assume they imagined me standing in the bowl and jumping up and down.

I ventured into a hardware store, chose my weapon, and pulled from the toilet the source of all evil: One sock. How a sock ended up in the toilet I cannot be sure, but I'm going to assume the toilet ate a previous owner.

So, now, I am a man. I faced my fears, the enemy without and within, and came away a hero. If you need your toilet unclogged, I will gird my loins and once again make the plunge — a man for all times.

I also understand women do this sort of thing without making a big fuss. If you're into that sort of thing.

Every man's nemesis: the toilet. ISTOCK

This chipmunk has gone nuts

DANIEL PARENT/SOLENT

Wildlife photography

Funny chipmunk gorges on nuts

This greedy, and indeed cheeky, chipmunk appeared to have bitten off more than he could chew when he got into a pile of peanuts.

The cute critter was part of a group of eight that had been given the nuts to share.

Metro chatted with Daniel Parent about his amusing photograph.

METRO

Daniel Parent, 51, is a photographer from Gatineau, Que. JIM CUMMING

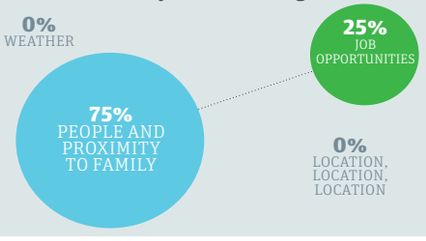
Parent on his experience

- **How did this happen?** "I was photographing a rare leucistic chipmunk in Ottawa, and was using the peanuts to distract the regular chipmunks," Parent explains. "There were about eight of them and some appeared to be quite greedy and stuffed their mouths, creating this amusing photo opportunity. I wasn't counting but I think some chipmunks easily got two peanuts into their cheeks, some of the more ambitious tried to get more. I sat about six metres away with my camera and waited for the chipmunks to come and get the peanuts."
- **Chipmunk challenge.** "Chipmunks are quick and most just grabbed a peanut and left," Parent says. "It took some time for this chipmunk to stay still and try to put as many peanuts in its mouth. Then I had to be in the right position to capture a moment in time when the chipmunk was in sight and stayed moderately still."

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What makes a city worth living in?



Twitter

@BrentButt: RT @escarius What if I told you there was a way to get high, with just some marijuana, rolling papers and a lighter?

@amellywood: The weather in Vancouver is now incredibly, almost paranormally beautiful. Vancouver's like a stunning woman with violent mood swings.

@VancouverUpdate: Hockey insiders report Shane Doan is close to signing with Canucks. Decision on a 3 year contract will be made next week. #vancouver

@dhewlett: Flying @virginatlantic Vancouver-London tomorrow. Told my son it's a "test launch" in preparation for his future galactic endeavours! ;-)

@s_abrin_ab: Vernon, Nelson, Osoyoos or stay in #Vancouver for vacation??

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2
SCENE

Entertainment in brief

Courtney Love being sued, again

Courtney Love's former assistant is suing over unpaid wages and claims the rocker made unethical requests such as instructing her to hire a hacker and falsify legal letters. Jessica Labrie filed the wrongful termination, wage and breach of contract lawsuit in Los Angeles on Tuesday. The suit states Labrie worked as Love's administrative assistant for about a year in 2010 and 2011, but was fired after complaining she was owed thousands in unpaid wages and expenses for business trips.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Hollywood-driven Stand Up to Cancer telethon returns in September to raise money, awareness

Hey folks: This festival has your name on it

Hey Rosetta! is among the acts performing at the 35th annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival. JILL WILLCOTT/COURTESY VANCOUVER FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Music and more.
Event for the old folk, young folk, student folk, professional folk, hippie folk ...

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

Let's get one thing straight: You're going to see some hippies at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival. In fact, they've been part of it for 35 years.

And while some in this city's lesser-informed quarters blow it off with a wave of the hand and a turned-up nose, well, they're kind of missing the point: This is a festival for everyone.

Old, young, professionals, students — all sitting, dancing, head-bobbing and singing to an eclectic mix of musical acts that have made the pilgrimage to Jericho Beach from all over the world.

And what about those acts? There are more than 60 of them. And talk about an eclectic mix: Lucinda Williams, Royal Wood, K'Naan, Sidi Touré, Mark Berube, Bombolessé, Dan Mangan, Hey Rosetta! The list goes on and on.

Got kids? Even better. Take them to the Little Folks Village, which is described by organizers as a festival within a festival, and described by my four-year-old as "a lot of fun, daddy."

There's face painting, waterworks, creation station, climbing wall, roving performers and a storytelling salmon — which sounds fishy but is really a giant inflatable salmon that's part of Evelyn Roth's Nylon Zoo.

The 35th annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival kicks off Friday and runs until Sunday at Jericho Beach Park.

A three-day weekend pass costs $165 at the gate; single Saturday or Sunday tickets are $80. You can also purchase Friday evening tickets for $50. There are significant discounts for students, elderly and youth.

Find out more deets at TheFestival.bc.ca.

Coming up

- **Flower Power.** Speaking of hippies, Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros are coming to the Malkin Bowl on Sept. 14, with guests Clap Your Hands Say Yeah. No word on whether Sharpe and company will be riding the magic bus. Tickets are $32 and can be purchased at LiveNation.com.
- **And you may ask yourself, why didn't I buy tickets to David Byrne and St. Vincent?** Don't let too many days go by before you do just that. The pair plays the Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts Oct. 20 in support of their collaborative album, Love This Giant. They'll also play songs from their respective catalogues. Tickets $39.50 to $79.50 at LiveNation.com.

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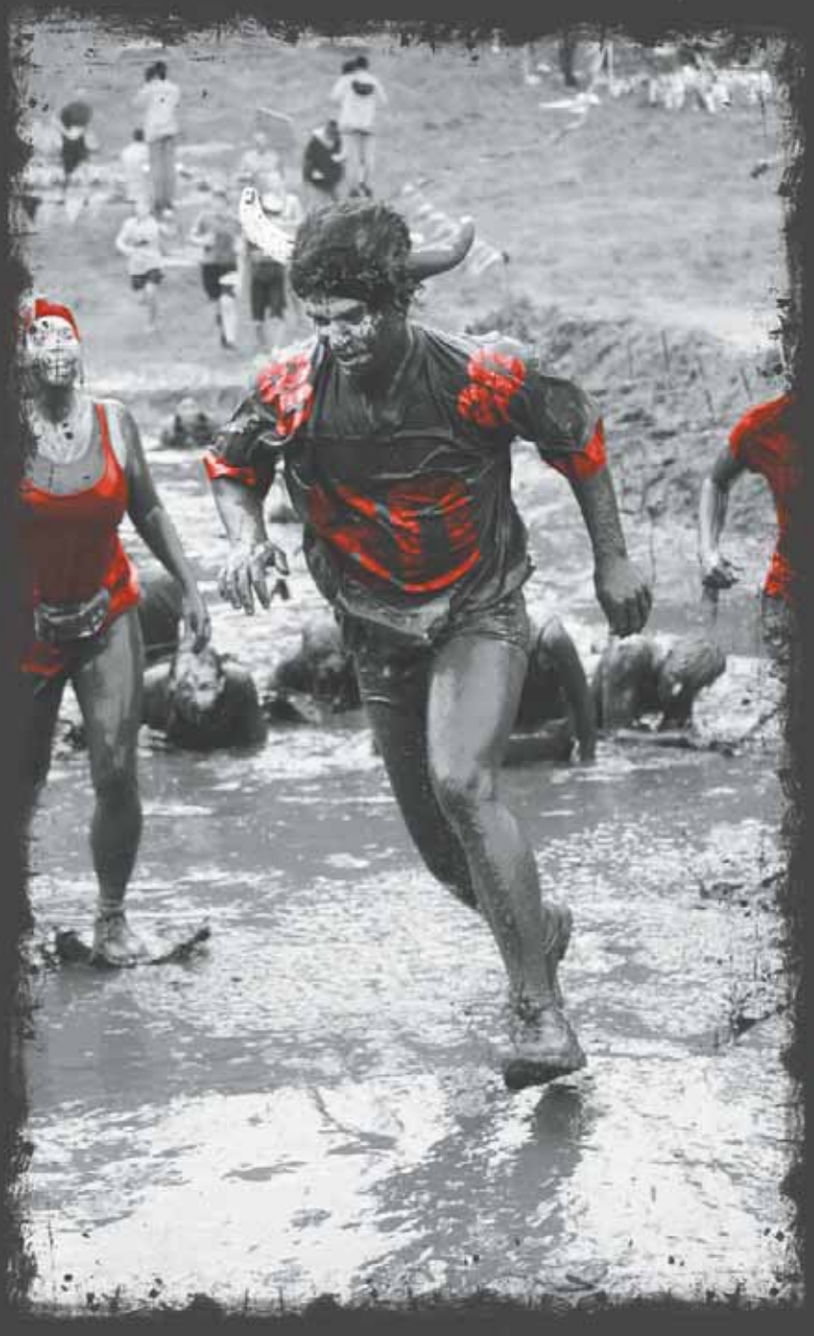

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L.A.'s Outfest hits the big 3-0

Film festival. Plenty of galas, parties and films planned to mark milestone anniversary — here's a peek at what's in store

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Outfest, the premiere Gay & Lesbian film festival in Los Angeles, hits a milestone this year, celebrating its 30th birthday. The big 3-0 means more galas and parties, more films and much more celebrating. The festival kicks off with a gala screening of Vito, a poignant documentary about activist and the Celluloid Closet author Vito Russo, and the honoring of director John Waters with the festival's Achievement Award. Outfest runs July 12 through July 22 at various locations in Los Angeles. Here are some of the highlights.

Struck by Lightning
Glee star Chris Colfer gets the overachiever award for serving as star, screenwriter and executive producer of this darkly comic take on being an outcast in high school. The Golden-Globe-winning wunderkind will be on hand for the festival's Closing Night Gala presentation of the film.

Young & Wild
This frank and fearless look at young lust comes direct from Chile, following a sex-obsessed teenager (Alicia Rodriguez) as she defies her evangelical family and blogs about her exploits, has already garnered rave reviews and awards from its premiere earlier this year at Sundance.

Keep the Lights On
Writer-director Ira Sachs' starkly beautiful indie picked up the Teddy Award for Best Feature at this year's Berlin Film Festival for its depiction of modern love and addiction in New York between two men over nearly a decade.

Happy Endings
While not actually a film, this one's worth lining up for: Outfest will play host to the premiere of an unaired episode of ABC's hit comedy Happy Endings, with a cast and creative team Q&A session immediately following.

Thure Lindhardt JEAN-CHRISTOPHE HUSSON

Q&A

Hansen's fest views and history

Director Jim Hansen and performer Drew Droege have created on online sensation with the series Chloe, lovingly lampooning indie film star Chloe Sevigny and pretension in general. Hansen is a long-time friend of the festival, so it only seemed natural for him to create some special, Outfest-specific Chloe clips, including a pre-screening warning about silencing cell phones — or "murdering" them, as Chloe says.

How long have you been involved with the festival?
This will be the fourth year that I've had something in the festival. Last year I had some Chloe videos and a short film called Video Night, and a short called Pretty Parts the year before that. It was just as Chloe was getting popular and Drew was awarded the emerging artist award.

With the mainstreaming of gay culture, is it still important to have festivals like this?
I definitely think that Outfest and festivals like it serve a special role. It is a place to see films that you may never otherwise get to see because they don't have a mass mainstream appeal. It also supports those filmmakers to explore those new areas. It gives credibility to these films that might otherwise be overlooked and disappear.

Now that Outfest is over 30, should it start lying about its age?
I think the grey hair and fine lines will look great on Outfest, so why lie?
NED EHRBAR

Neon Trees. Singer gets used to the 'taste of fame' and explores escapism themes on new album Picture Show

Chris Allen, left, Elaine Bradley, Tyler Glenn, and Branden Campbell of Neon Trees. CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES

KILLIAN YOUNG
Metro World News in New York

Neon Trees exploded onto the music scene with Animal, the catchy dance rock track that earned them the 2011 Billboard Award for Top Alternative Song.

When asked if he expected this sudden surge in popularity, singer Tyler Glenn flatly says no.

"At the same time, I never think that we're bigger than we are," he said. "

I'm almost self-deprecating to a fault, and sometimes don't allow myself to realize how big we've gotten to some people."

Glenn says this struggle helped inform Neon Trees' latest, Picture Show, which came out in April.

He says the album deals with "experiencing the taste of fame and how it can really swallow you up if you want it to."

"All the songs that I was writing about for this record were about escape," he explains.

"I like the way I feel when I go to see a movie, seeing someone else's life for two hours."

For Neon Trees, they were able to capture the sounds of this escapism by working in Los Angeles.

"We created and recorded the record in Hollywood, and every day walking to the studio, I saw the Hollywood sign," Glenn says.

"It's interesting how it's changed for me. I used to fear it and hate it, and I think in the last couple of years, getting to know the city more ... it's really a magical city."

Glenn credits his musical mentors for helping him strike the delicate balance of dealing with popularity.

He says he learned from singers of bands the Trees have opened for, notably 30 Second to Mars' Jared Leto, whom Glenn calls "an actual, passionate, real frontman."

Glenn's sense of identity is taking shape: "I'm always pushing that mantra or motto that fame is dead — the idea of fame shouldn't be an end goal, but it should be a byproduct of your success and your passion."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Katie Holmes ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Katie Holmes went to Cruise's ex-wife for advice on divorce

Katie Holmes reportedly had some high-profile sounding boards as she planned her exit from her marriage to Tom Cruise — including Cruise's second ex-wife, Nicole Kidman, according to Us Weekly.

"They've spoken over the last few weeks," a source says. "Nicole has been supportive, saying she's been through it too and to hang in there. Nicole offered her support and help."

The two first became acquainted when Holmes married Cruise in 2006.

"She has been a private friend not many people know about," the source explains.

So how did Holmes reach out to Kidman on the sly? The L.A. Times reports that Holmes used a disposable cell phone provided by a friend to plot her divorce escape.

The Word

Travis Barker still struggles with flying after famous crash

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Four years after surviving a deadly plane crash, Travis Barker is still understandably hesitant to fly, and his travel restrictions are making the latest Blink 182 tour a little difficult.

"This will be the big tour that supports the album in Europe. Mind you, I'm not flying, so it's hard to say what the band could do or what its potential is, because I can't really get everywhere," the drummer tells Red Bulletin magazine.

Barker is, however, planning to give it another go if the tour takes them down under.

"I'm contemplating getting knocked out and getting on a plane to Australia. I want to overcome that eventually," he continues. "When I do, I think it's going to be Qantas. They never had a crash, never had a fatality — knock on wood. It's something I want to overcome."

We salute you, Travis. Take care and treat yourself to some premium tranquilizers — you could totally afford to hire Ira Glass to talk about baby kangaroos for the entire 20 hours.

Twitter

@BetteMidler
Why does every girl in TopShop look exactly alike? What am I doing in TopShop?

@russellcrowe
did this thing where you do 10 push ups, prone hold for 30 secs, 9 push ups,prone hold 30 secs etc, only takes 6 or 7 minutes but it got me

@ElizabethBanks
My kid opened a magazine to a picture of an Estée Lauder fragrance model, pointed and yelled "mama!" ◙#bestkidever◙ ◙#mademyday

@SethMacFarlane
Wanna just get away from it all. Which campground gets the best iPhone reception?

Jessica Biel

Biel comfortable with Timberlake picking the pants in the relationship

Jessica Biel doesn't mind being the less fashion-conscious of the couple compared to fiancé Justin Timberlake.

"He is fearless in his choices and has a real eye for design. And I'll be honest: He has better taste than I do," she tells InStyle.

"When I walk out of the closet after getting dressed in the morning, I'll go like this and turn palms upward as if to say, 'Well?' And he goes like this and shakes his head no. Then he picks again. It's hilarious."

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3 LIFE

Fashion Flash

Aeropostale taps Chloe Moretz as its model and style curator

At age 15, actress Chloe Grace Moretz is already an ambassador. It's for Aeropostale, the youthful fashion brand, and it's a job that's likely to come with some clout and influence — especially with teenage shoppers. Moretz will be featured in advertisements through next spring, largely wearing clothing she's selected and styled herself. She will also curate collections in-store and online. "I get my own section, I got to pull my own clothes. Girls can go and see what I love and what I wear in the shoots. It's a way for me to be in touch with girls," Moretz said in a recent phone interview. Moretz starred in Hugo and The Amityville Horror and has the title role in the upcoming remake of the horror classic Carrie.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Cowboy hats on royal heads bring Calgary company booming business

Attention men, it's about to get loud

Trend alert. With a riot of hot colours, prints and metallics, the spring/summer '13 men's wear shows are not for the shy

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Seemingly, these days, men are more sartorially daring and, boy, are they going to need to be, judging by the menagerie of prints on offer. Dolce and Gabbana looked to a Sicily of old, with images of Sicilian barrows, puppets ('pupi') and temples, all desirably nostalgic. In contrast, Dries Van Noten combined camouflage and leopard — disguise or defence?

Whatever the meaning is, you won't be overlooked in these. Kenzo continued the camo trope with a look to the jungle. That's the urban jungle with abstracted leopard print and tiger stripes of baggy shorts and boxy tees — a key trend for the season.

Metallics: feel the steel

Think of metallics and you're probably picturing a man in a tin foil robot suit. Lanvin's monochromes were broken up with futuristic, cyborg-esque tailoring, shorts and a rather splendid pea coat, all accentuated by the dead-eyed models. But it was Versace who ramped it up with a homoerotic gladiatorial extravaganza. The outerwear and accessories appeared as a campy Mad Max-Matrix hybrid. Burberry took a break from the sobriety of its recent shows by further continuing the sci-fi motif, with models resembling Blade Runner-esque replicants with ice blue shirts and fuchsia trenches.

Colours are hotting up

This season a pop of colour has progressed, thanks to the likes of Gucci who cut tailoring among other pieces in leaf green, mustard yellow and reds that ran the gamut. Ghastly? No, captivating. Similarly red, the most evocative of colours was used to great effect at Dior Homme where the shade held the eye amongst an almost entirely navy collection. However, Louis Vuitton's Damier luxury luggage shared the runway with, shock, a not-so-mellow yellow. Yachting-style slickers — in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Louis Vuitton Cup — moved towards lurid scuba gear before returning to the Paris house's tailoring sensibility.

Gucci CONTRIBUTED

Dolce & Gabbana CONTRIBUTED

Louis Vuitton CONTRIBUTED

Emporio Armani CONTRIBUTED

Try this look

Bare your arms

To pull off this trend you best get working on those biceps. Givenchy, Jean Paul Gaultier and Acne all pumped out the look.

Acne / CONTRIBUTED

Kenzo CONTRIBUTED

Try this look

Shorts go long

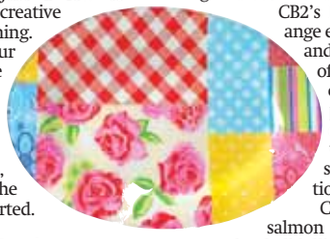
After a few seasons of tight, tailored shorts, the designers like Jil Sander, 3.1 Phillip Lim, Emporio Armani and Alexander Wang have relaxed the look with some chilled out, baggy styles. Takes the pressure off having a good butt, gentlemen.

Hot decor for summer shindigs

Cocktail parties.
From South Beach serveware to rustic-rock centrepieces, there's tons goods to make your soirée a success

Ah, summer. There's something about these warm, languid days that makes many of us want to throw together a little gathering.

Picking a cocktail party theme makes planning the menu and decor more fun. Here are just a few to get your creative wheels turning.



Invite your favourite people, add some fairy lights and lanterns, and get the party started.

'60s South Beach
Showtime's new Magic City TV series, set in mid-century Miami, is inspiration for party decor and music with a retro vibe, served with Cuban-influenced canapes.

At Pottery Barn, you'll find a collection of melamine plates, serveware and co-ordinating linens in muted vintage tropical prints.

Palm-leaf-patterned ceramic serveware in deep blues and olive greens are part of Cindy Crawford Style's Eden collection at JC Penney.

And even if you're landbound, craft stores offer shells, coral and starfish you can add to baskets and trays filled with store-bought play sand to create table decor. Or place one dramatic tropical flower or frond in a tall slim vase.

Serve appetizers with Latin flair, such as Cuban shrimp skewers, mini empanadas and spicy popcorn. Play the Rat Pack music that was popular in the era at Miami's big hotels — Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Sammy Davis Jr.

Cocktails in Cortona
You may not be under the Tuscan sun this summer, but you can still set a similar scene for your guests.

Fill a large glass vase with water, lemons and sunflowers. Or take a cue from London-based stylist Sania Pell and fill clear vessels with untrimmed vegetables such as radishes, celery and carrots for a rustic look.

Pottery Barn has melamine versions of the iconic Talavera pottery, while Williams-Sonoma has unbreakable dishware in Mediterranean patterns.

Small bites are the way to go with any cocktail party; they're easy for guests to handle, and your food trays will be easier to refresh. For this one, consider tiny tomato tarts, a sampler of Italian ices, and shot glasses filled with cold soups like cucumber dill or tomato basil.

Tokyo terrace
A city balcony is the perfect place for a chic, Asian-inspired cocktail party. Set up the Zen zone with baby conifer pots or moss nestled into interesting dishes. Wrap votives in origami paper.

Branchhome.com has Wasara's elegant bamboo and sugarcane-fiber disposable tableware that's great looking and eco-friendly.

CB2's Format orange enamel tray and an array of colourful clothes-pin-style chopsticks would be stylish options.

Crabcakes, salmon satays and melon ball lollipops, along with bowls of Japanese crackers and wasabi nuts, will satisfy snacking guests.

Cabin fever
Bring the woodsy cabin vibe home to the city or suburbia with a few playful accessories and a comfort food menu. A few inexpensive bandanas, a plaid blanket or an old quilt make colourful table coverings.

Homegoods has a canoe-shaped condiment server complete with "paddle" spoons. You'll find patchwork-patterned acrylic plates here too, as well as co-ordinating drink pitchers and utensils. Set out mini sliders, roasted vegetable skewers and paper cups filled with seasoned fries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patchwork acrylic plate (above), $7.99, and metal cutout lanterns, $12.99 - $24.99, both from HomeGoods.com

Starfish bowls, $10.50 each. POTTERYBARN.CA

Luau Melamine Plates, set of 4, $31.45 - $39.48. POTTERYBARN.CA

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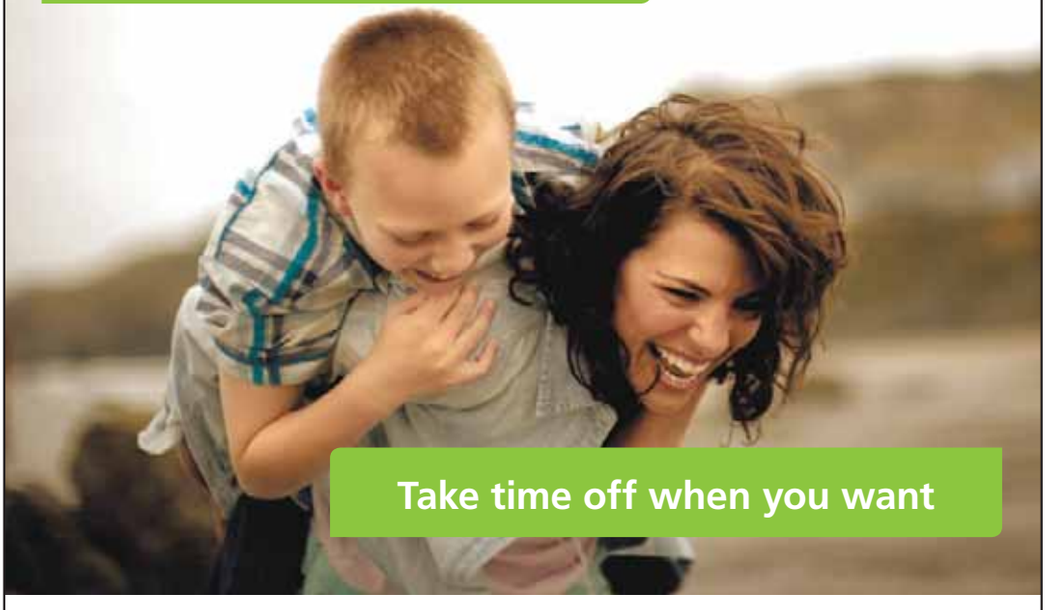

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Interiors that truly blossom

Decor. The floral trend is budding. We chat to an expert about how to prune the look to perfection

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Living amongst the flowers is seeing a resurgence. No, this isn't a hippy revolution but it is in fact the return of the floral trend.

The reputation of florals as a viable interior décor has been sullied over the years for being too twee and frankly something that's best left in the rose bed. That said, the look has bloomed recently with modern styles available in abundance.

However, to avoid being overawed by the trend, interior designer Rosemary Ridgway offers some timely advice.

Avoid a festoon of florals

Ridgway says, "Using them as accents rather than emblazoning florals across sofas is rather dated. In two years you would look back and think what did I do that for?"

To avoid living in a flower garden, the alternatives include accessories such as cushions or faux/real flowers because let's be honest, nothing beats the genuine article.

Growing up the wall

"Living in a completely floral room would give you a headache — you'd probably need a pair of sunglasses," jokes the designer.

Ridgway continues, "It's never been a great love of mine but I would possibly do a feature wall. Blossom and tendrils in an entrance hall can look particularly dramatic."

Incidentally, the expert explains that designers first used feature walls when they lacked a substantial enough budget to paper all the walls.

Be bold

The spring/summer '12 women's runways were teaming with graphic florals and interior styles have followed suit.

"But of course, the fashion and interior industry are very much harnessed together — I see myself wearing and accessorizing homes in a similar aesthetic," explains Ridgway.

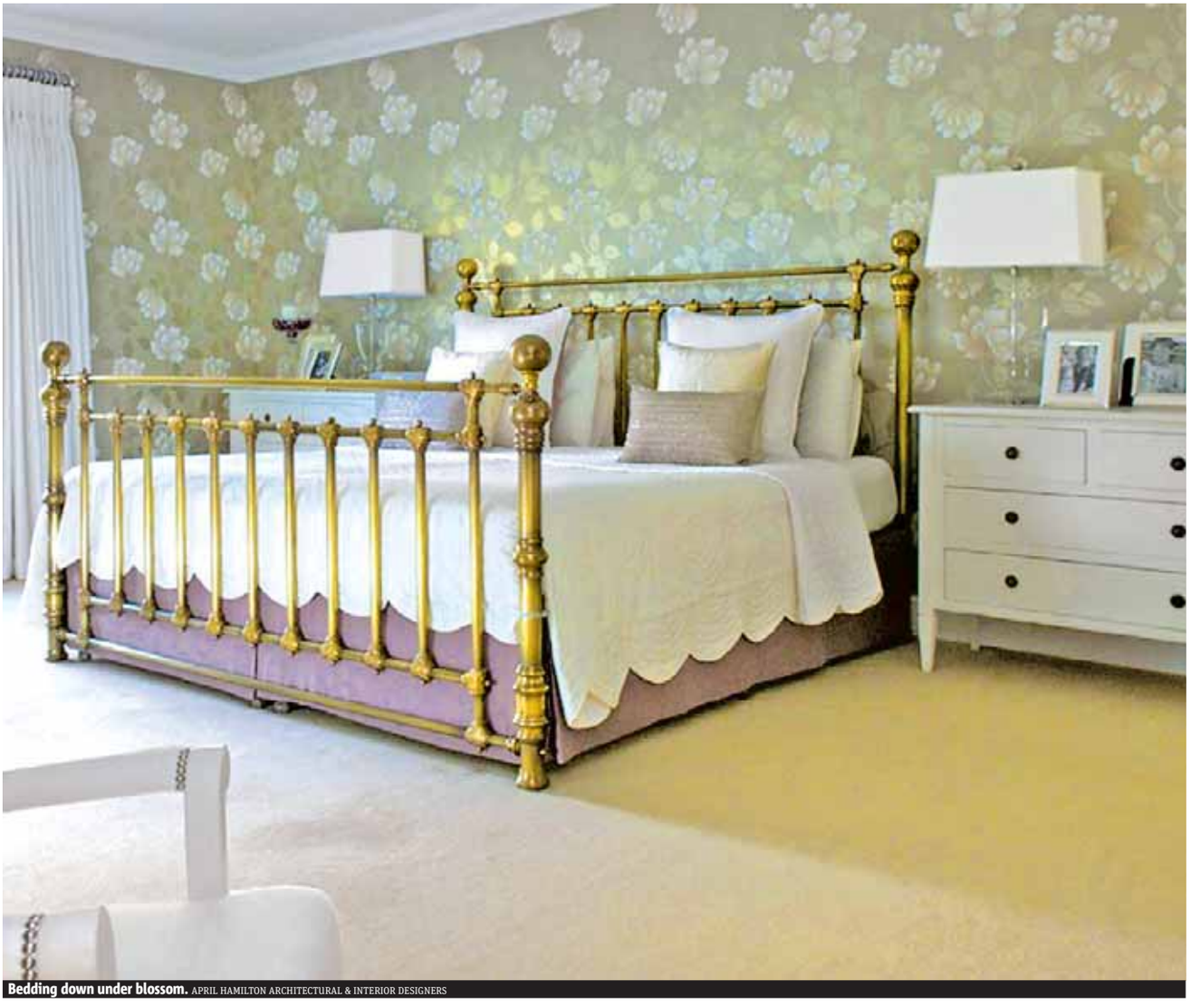
Now's the time to be brave with colour and as the designer states, "I'm working with bolder blossoms and oversized prints and sometimes clients can be a little overwhelmed at first but in my opinion the bolder the better."

Florals aren't just for girls

"Monochromatic colour schemes can work. I've worked with acanthus leaves and Rococo scrolls which are both quite soft but they're still quite masculine elements," says the founder of April Hamilton architectural and interior designers.

This may be a little Grecian for most men's tastes but there's an alternative. You could add topiary or woodland prints in sepia or black for a modern take.

OK, it's not strictly floral but it can work well as an architectural feature in the bedroom.



Bedding down under blossom. APRIL HAMILTON ARCHITECTURAL & INTERIOR DESIGNERS

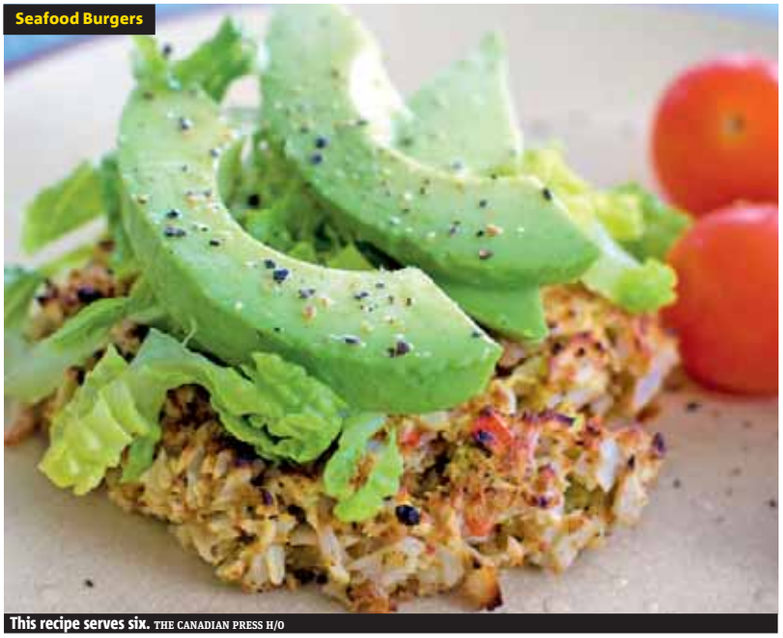
In full bloom. FARROW & BALL PEONY

Amongst the lilies. COLE & SON LILY

Tuna, salmon and crabmeat combine to make diabetic-friendly Seafood Burgers

"This burger goes far beyond the fast-food variety," Angela Medearis says in her book The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook. "Imitation crabmeat, canned tuna, or salmon all make delicious seafood burgers, and are a healthy source of omega-3 fatty acids. Try a combination of all three for a tasty treat."

Seafood Burgers



This recipe serves six. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Ingredients

- 1 lb imitation crabmeat, canned tuna packed in water, or canned salmon
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup whole-wheat panko breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup plain low-fat Greek yogurt
- 2 tbsp low-fat mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
- 2 scallions, including green parts, finely chopped
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp poultry seasoning
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 6 whole-wheat hamburger buns, split and toasted
- 1/2 cup shredded lettuce
- 1 avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced

1. In a large bowl, combine the crabmeat, salmon tuna (or all three), egg, bread crumbs, yogurt, mayonnaise, celery, bell pepper, scallions, mustard, lemon juice, poultry seasoning, cayenne and black pepper. Mix gently, then form into 6 patties.

2. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

3. Heat the oven to broil. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.

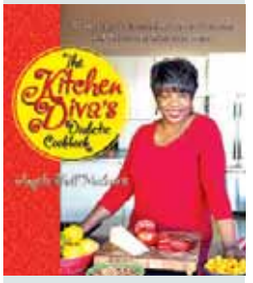
4. Arrange the patties on the prepared baking sheet. Broil for 3 to 4 minutes, then carefully flip and broil for another 3 to 4 minutes, or until golden brown.

5. Place each burger in a toasted bun and top with lettuce and avocado slices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RECIPE ADAPTED FROM ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS' THE KITCHEN DIVA'S DIABETIC COOKBOOK, ANDREWS MCMEEL, 2012

Book of the week

Modern spin on Diabetes cooking



Angela Shelf Medearis releases an inspirational collection of more than 150 simple, flavourful and budget-friendly recipes in her book The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook.

Recipes address dietary needs of prediabetics, juvenile diabetics, type 1 and type 2 diabetics, and more.

You'll find recipes featured on The Dr. Oz Show such as Buttermilk Pecan-Crusted Tilapia as well as Jerk Chicken Salad, Herb Cauliflower Couscous and more. A detailed nutritional and caloric analysis is included in each recipe to ensure that daily nutritional requirements are met.

METRO

Sweet & Savoury.

Spinach & Savoy Cabbage Slaw with Roasted Beets

To roast the beets in this recipe, wrap them together in foil and bake at 425 F (220 C) for 1 hour or until tender when tested with the tip of a knife. If you're running low on time, you can also use store-bought pickled beets.

1. Whisk together vinegar, oil, soy sauce, hot pepper jelly, ginger and garlic. Toss with shredded cabbage, spinach, green onions and sesame seeds.

2. Cut roasted beets into wedges and gently toss with salad. Sprinkle blue cheese over and serve immediately.

NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 4 tbsp (60 ml) seasoned rice wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sesame oil
- 2 tsp (10 ml) soy sauce
- 1 tsp (5 ml) hot pepper jelly, melted
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ginger, finely minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) garlic, minced
- 4 cups (1 l) savoy cabbage, cored and shredded
- 3 cups (750 ml) baby spinach
- 4 green onions, finely sliced
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) toasted sesame seeds
- 4 medium roasted beets
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) crumbled blue cheese

Leftover rice gets new life in quick Chorizo Rice Frittata

This 20-minute meal is perfect for a rushed weekday supper. Serve it with a mixed green salad.

1. Heat a 25-cm (10-inch) ceramic, enamelled cast-iron or non-stick, oven-safe skillet over medium-high heat; add oil. Cook sausage, onion and red pepper, breaking sausage up with wooden spoon, until sausage is crumbled and cooked through, about 3 minutes. Stir in rice, paprika, salt and pepper; cook until heated through, about 1 minute.

2. Meanwhile, in a bowl, whisk eggs, milk, parsley; pour evenly over sausage mixture. Cover and cook over medium heat until bottom and sides are firm and top is almost set, about 8 minutes.

3. Sprinkle with cheese; transfer to a preheated oven and broil on high, watching closely, until cheese is bubbly, and frittata set, about 2 minutes.

4. Let stand 5 minutes. Slide onto cutting board and cut in wedges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/USA RICE FEDERATION, RICEINFO.COM

This recipe serves eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Ingredients

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 375 g (12 oz) fresh chorizo pork sausages (about 3), casings removed
- 1 small onion, diced
- Half sweet red pepper, diced
- 250 ml (1 cup) cooked medium- or long-grain white rice
- 4 ml (3/4 tsp) smoked or sweet paprika
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 10 eggs
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) 10 per cent cream or whole milk
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped fresh parsley
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) grated Manchego cheese or cheddar cheese

4 SPORTS

CFL

Stampeders QB Tate sidelined

Calgary Stampeders coach John Hufnagel estimates starting quarterback Drew Tate will be out for five or six weeks with a left shoulder injury.

Veteran Kevin Glenn will take over.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cycling

French favourite wins Tour stage

Thomas Voeckler of France led a five-rider breakaway to win the 10th stage of the Tour de France as the race entered the Alps on Wednesday, while Bradley Wiggins retained the overall lead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thomas Voeckler crosses the finish-line on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

The Tim Duncan era continues

The San Antonio Spurs announced Wednesday that they re-signed Tim Duncan, bringing back the 36-year-old forward for at least a 16th season.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

"I'm not going to come in and expect for coach to cater to who I am and what I do."

Ray Allen, who will make $3 million US this season after officially signing a contract with the Miami Heat on Wednesday.

TFC stuns Caps in last minute

MLS. Dunfield's late goal seals win for Toronto as Vancouver squanders late equalizer

Terry Dunfield, centre, is mobbed by teammates after scoring the winning goal against the Whitecaps in Toronto on Wednesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was a game that seemed destined to end in yet more Toronto FC disappointment. But this time there was a happy ending for the MLS cellar-dwellers.

Terry Dunfield scored five minutes into stoppage time to give Toronto FC a 3-2 win over Vancouver in a wild game Wednesday night that appeared headed for a heartbreaking tie after the home side had gifted a goal to the Whitecaps on an earlier injury-time mistake.

For Toronto manager Paul Mariner, it was a Tony Robbins-type lesson of a game.

"As I've said many times this week, the brain is an unbelievable thing that keeps those legs going as far as football is concerned," said the former England international. "It's all about the state of mind. If you keep telling yourself that you're tired, then you are tired. But if you're willing to drive on, as we did for 90-plus minutes tonight, then anything's possible.

Toronto (3-11-4) had pulled ahead 2-1 on second-half goals by rookie Luis Silva and captain Torsten Frings four minutes apart, only to see the bottom fall out one minute into stoppage time.

Goalie Milos Kocic tried to punch away a high cross and missed it, leaving Vancouver's Darren Mattocks a clear header that sent the ball looping into the goal. It was the second goal of the game for the rookie striker from Jamaica, who looked dangerous all night.

While most of the 19,821 fans at BMO Field hung their heads at the 2-2 score, the Toronto players kept their eye on the prize and blitzed the Vancouver goal.

"I think we were all wide-eyed looking at that and amazed at just how high he got and how well he timed it," Vancouver coach Martin Rennie said of the goal by the six-foot Mattocks. "He outjumped a goalie who's already six-foot-four who's able to use his hands. So that was an amazing jump."

Toronto won a corner and Dunfield, a former Vancouver player who scored against Toronto in the Whitecaps' MLS debut last season, rose majestically and headed in the winning goal off a Frings corner in the fifth minute of injury time.

"Probably the best feeling in my soccer career. That was incredible," said a delighted Dunfield, who may still be smiling after his first league goal for Toronto.

Vancouver (8-5-6) had opened the scoring in the 50th minute after Mattocks moved towards the byline, slotting the ball into the empty net from a tight angle. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caps move

The Whitecaps sold midfielder Davide Chiumiento to FC Zurich on Wednesday.

- The 27-year-old Swiss international joined the MLS team in August 2010 after spending four seasons in his native Switzerland.

Cycling

Armstrong given time to contest doping charges

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on Wednesday granted Lance Armstrong an extension of up to 30 days to contest drug charges while the seven-time Tour de France winner challenges the case in federal court. The move erases the Saturday deadline for Armstrong to either send the case to arbitration or accept sanctions from USADA, which would likely include a lifetime ban from cycling and other sports along with stripping the Tour titles he won from 1999-2005.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobile sports

With fastballs, sliders, curves, slurves, two-seamers, four-seamers, cutters, palmballs, splitters, forkballs, knuckleballs and even the infamous gyroball, you might think this is a golden age of pitching. But are there that many more pitches today? Or did we just figure it out with scouting and technology? Scan the code for the story.

Nash still surprised to be joining Lakers

Steve Nash, with Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak on Wednesday in El Segundo, Calif. REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Nash knew the scene was more than a bit surreal when he stood in the Los Angeles Lakers' training complex, grinning and holding up a gold No. 10 jersey with his name on the back.

"Being here right now is something I never foresaw," Nash, from Victoria, said Wednesday. "That (jersey) was a major hurdle for me just to get over visually as a player."

The two-time MVP will get used to it. After spending the past 16 years trying to beat L.A. in Phoenix and Dallas, Nash is switching teams to chase NBA titles alongside Kobe Bryant.

The Lakers formally welcomed Nash on Wednesday, a week after reaching a deal to get the superstar point guard from the Suns. After several days getting used to these developments, the 38-year-old Nash is eager to open another chapter in his remarkable career — a chapter that will extend to at least 2015 under his new three-year, $27-million US contract.

"It's a franchise that I think everybody would dream of playing for," Nash said. "It's an exciting project, to say the least.... I definitely never thought I'd play 19 years in the league, and I feel very fortunate that I have my health and, most importantly, have the desire to do it."

Los Angeles general manager Mitch Kupchak thought he had no chance to get Nash when Lakers owner Jim Buss encouraged him to call Nash's agent in the opening minutes of free agency. Kupchak learned his team fit Nash's two criteria as an impending free agent not in the Suns' plans: Nash wanted to be near his three children in Phoenix, and he wanted to play for a winner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B.C.'s Tim Brown celebrates a touchdown against Hamilton last Friday in Vancouver. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Returners running away with accolades

CFL. Return game turns heads with TD outburst in opening two weeks

Mike Benevides is 2-0 as a CFL head coach, thanks to the B.C. Lions special teams.

The defending Grey Cup champions haven't skipped a beat with their rookie head coach. But Benevides says the Lions wouldn't be undefeated if not for the play of Tim Brown, the CFL's top punt returner this season.

"There's no way we would've won the last two games without our special teams in terms of our return game," the Toronto native said. "For us, it was a huge part of the wins."

The play of Brown and other returners was indeed special last weekend as three punts and a missed field goal were taken back for touchdowns. That gives the CFL four special-teams TDs so far, which is already half of last year's total.

Winnipeg's Demond Washington had the first return TD, taking a punt back 82 yards in a 41-30 loss to Montreal on Friday night. In the nightcap, Brown had an 81-yard punt return for a touchdown in B.C.'s 39-36 home win over Hamilton, a game that also saw Chris Williams of the Tiger-Cats score on a 67-yard punt return.

On Saturday, Calgary's Larry Taylor returned a missed field goal 125 yards for a touchdown in a 39-36 road loss to Toronto.

"That (four return TDs the same weekend) is probably a surprise when you look at it but overall you can see why," Benevides said. "It's one of those things that's exciting for the fans and is a huge part of the CFL."

Hamilton head coach George Cortez agreed, sort of.

"I don't think anybody in the league is happy about the state of their special teams," Cortez told reporters Tuesday. "Let me rephrase that.

"Everybody is happy with the return game and nobody is happy with their coverage game."

Brown certainly gave Benevides plenty to smile about Friday with six punt returns for 157 yards and seven kickoff returns for 139 yards. He also had a 59-yard punt return in B.C.'s season-opening 33-16 home victory over Winnipeg.

However, that paled in comparison to the club-record 441 all-purpose yards Taylor rolled up against Toronto, second only in CFL history to the 474-yard performance Winnipeg's Albert Johnson III had in 2000. Calgary's Taylor had eight kickoff returns for 222 yards, two missed field-goal returns for 136 yards and two punt returns for 70 yards in addition to a 13-yard catch.

Special teams are crucial in Canadian football because with only three downs on the longer, wider field, returners have plenty of opportunity and ground to make big plays. Not only do punt teams have a lot of ground to cover, they must also give returners a five-yard cushion to catch the ball before being allowed to make the tackle.

Benevides, a former special-teams coach, says return teams usually have the early advantage on cover squads.

"At this point in time it's Week 2, there's still a feel-out process in terms of the personnel on rosters and where guys play on certain positions," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's a big field, it's a lot of space and good guys in space make it tough. You just have to constantly work to improve on that."

Hamilton Tiger-Cats rookie head coach George Cortez on the challenges punt teams face in trying to cover returners.

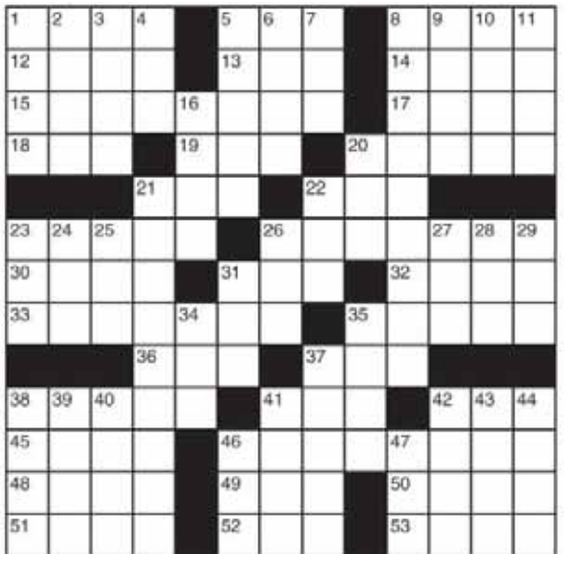
Ready for Riders?

B.C. is in Regina on Saturday to face the unbeaten Roughriders and coach Mike Benevides expects Saskatchewan's cover teams to have some different wrinkles to contain Tim Brown.

- As a result, the Lions' special teams will feature their own adjustments.
- "It's cat and mouse, it's always the chess match," Benevides said. "Obviously the pieces on the cover teams will continue to change and make it tough."

Across
1 Bear lair
5 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
8 Pocket bread
12 "Yeah, right"
13 Part of UCLA
14 From the beginning
15 Seasoned beef product
17 Luminary
18 Hot tub
19 Work with
20 Tale
21 Spot on a domino
22 Resume
23 Macho type
26 Takes temporarily
30 Love god
31 Remiss
32 Met melody
33 Dangerous snake
35 Use a Cuisinart
36 Mex. neighbor
37 Pub order
38 Fragment of glass
41 Country club instructor
42 Branch
45 Cougar
46 Potpourri
48 Enthusiastic
49 Id counterpart
50 Geometry calculation
51 Got up
52 Buddhist sect
53 "Swell!"

Down
1 Uppercase letters
2 Pronto, on a memo
3 Master-Card rival
4 Small salamander
5 Necklace fastener
6 Apple or pear
7 Spanish for "so"
8 Rural composition
9 Busy with
10 Wardrobe malfunction
11 Distorted
16 Destruction
20 Round Table address
21 Grazing land
22 Carton
23 That woman
24 Geological time
25 Witticism
26 Tavern
27 Raw rock
28 Victory
29 Blue
31 Actress Thompson
34 1960s hallucinogen
35 Rorschach picture
37 Bad lighting?
38 Mast
39 "Les Miserables" author
40 Andy's pal
41 Senate staffer
42 Broad expanse
43 Comic Caroline
44 Vegan's no-no
46 Candy in dispensers
47 Mystery writer Rankin



	3	4				8		
			7	3				1
7					2			3
		3	1		5		9	
	8			4			2	
	5		2		7	6		
5			4					2
3				1	9			
		6				5	7	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	7	8	9	3	5	2	6
8	5	6	7	4	2	9	3	1
2	9	3	5	6	1	7	4	8
4	7	1	3	2	9	8	6	5
9	2	8	6	7	5	4	1	3
6	3	5	1	8	4	2	9	7
3	1	4	2	5	8	6	7	9
7	8	2	9	3	6	1	5	4
5	6	9	4	1	7	3	8	2

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

I X A Y G M G K W A Y L A K

H V P V L P G J N M G J L G H A K Y ,

V P B W W N P A X A P X N B J C

N K C A K G P M K A I C K V H A K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GUY IS DRESSED IN A FELINE COSTUME, MIGHT YOU CALL HIS HAIRSTYLE A "CAT MAN DO"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals W

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 21°/15° Sunny
Friday 24°/18° Sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. With Mars, your ruling planet, moving through the partnership sector of your chart, this is the perfect time to assess your relationships.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Your capacity for hard work is legendary but you could be tempted to take on too many tasks over the next 24 hours. While your energy may be unlimited, your time is not.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Throw yourself into a creative activity and forget about personal problems. Working hard on projects that you enjoy will be therapeutic.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You need to get over your sense of injustice and stand far enough back to see the big picture. Then you will realize that life is a lot fairer than you have given it credit for.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Forget about work for the next 24 hours and do something that is purely for fun. If you can arrange it, a trip away from your usual environment will do you the world of good.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You may want to make a good impression on certain people but don't do anything you might later regret. Success is important, of course, but so is your sense of integrity.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. All the things that you should have done but never got around to are possible for you now. Make use of Mars in your sign to motivate yourself to do something spectacular.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. There will be a number of distractions today and it is quite likely that you will get frustrated at not being able to focus on one thing at a time.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Even if you are a rare Sagittarius who prefers their own company, you will want to be involved in a group activity of some sort today.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You may be determined to prove you have what it takes, but you must also accept there are forces in the world that can't be defeated.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Mars in your fellow Air sign of Libra means there is no excuse for moaning that you don't get the breaks. Instead of waiting for luck to come your way, go out and grab it.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Others will be eager to involve you in their schemes, but be on your guard. Yes, there is money to be made, but you won't get something for nothing. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Well, it looked like a good idea on paper!"
Les
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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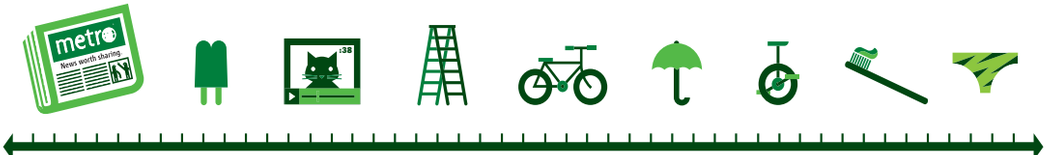
Sharability



easy — hard

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